



# THE WALKING DEAD

47

TM



Chris 107

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING

# DEAD

TM

**ROBERT KIRKMAN**

Creator, Writer

**CHARLIE ADLARD**

Penciler, Inker, Cover

**CLIFF RATHBURN**

Gray Tones, Cover Colors

**RUS WOOTON**

Letterer

**SINA GRACE**

Editor

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digital content manager

**Feldman Public Relations LA**  
public relations



**Sina Grace**  
editorial director

**Chad Manion**  
assistant to mr. grace

for International Rights inquiries,  
please contact [sk@skybound.com](mailto:sk@skybound.com)

[www.skybound.com](http://www.skybound.com)

#### Previously:

Believing Michonne to be dead, the Woodbury people, led by The Governor had taken Tyreese captive. Governor drove to the prison and threatened to kill Tyreese if Rick wouldn't open the gates and allow his people in. Rick, Hershel and the rest refused--so The Governor brutally murdered Tyreese before their eyes... before returning back to the Woodbury camp, to find Michonne, very much alive--and ready to kill!

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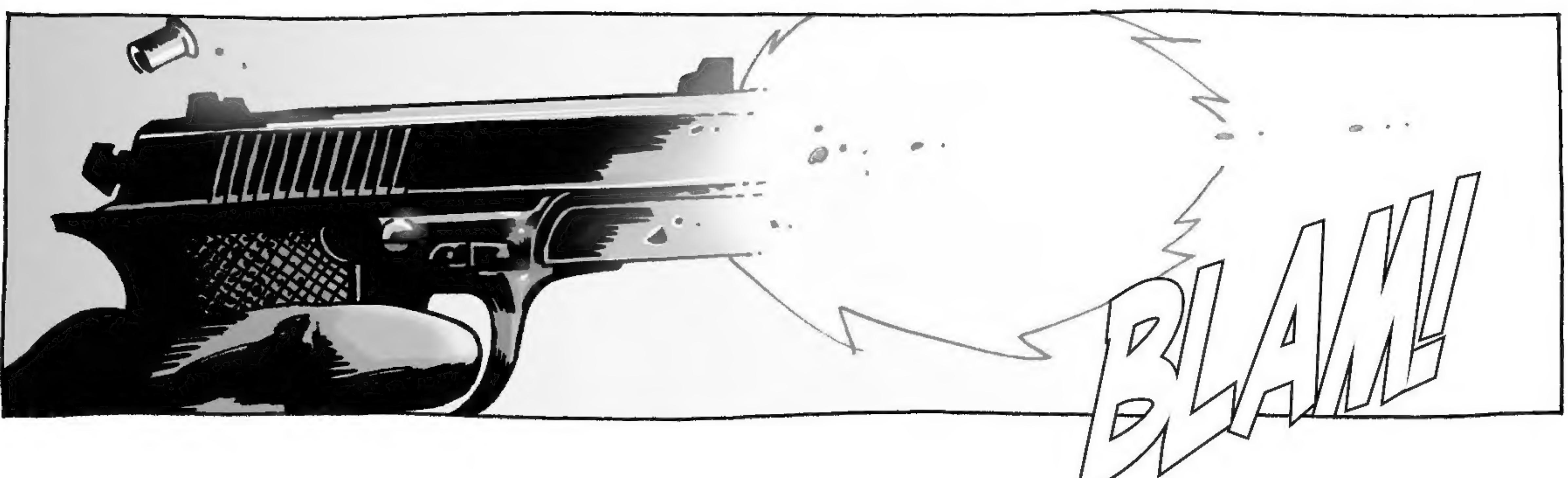
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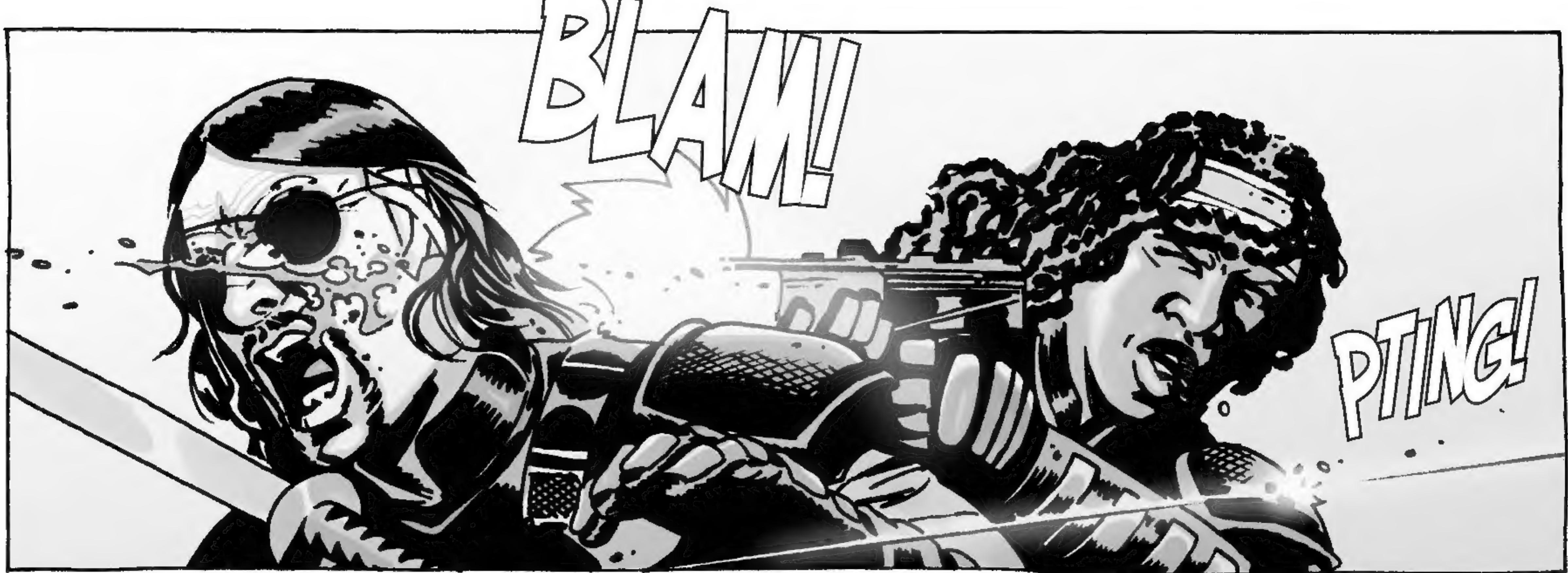
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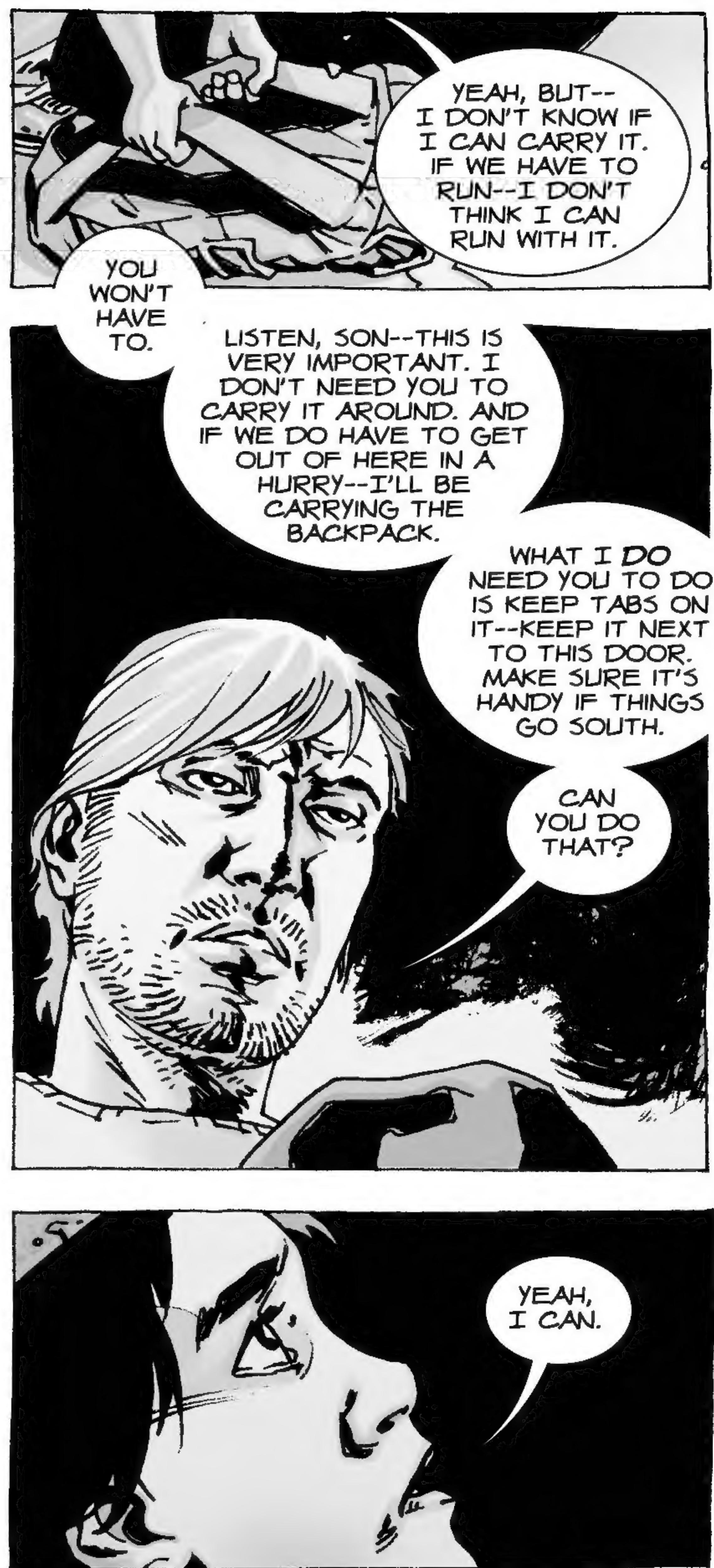












IF THEY'RE AS DISORGANIZED AS LAST TIME, OUR SMALL NUMBERS COULD BE TO OUR BENEFIT. LESS OF US TO SHOOT--MORE SPREAD OUT.

WE PICK THEM OFF WHILE--

ANYTHING YET?

NOPE.  
WE AIN'T--

THEY'RE  
HERE!

SHIT.  
WE'RE  
FUCKED.

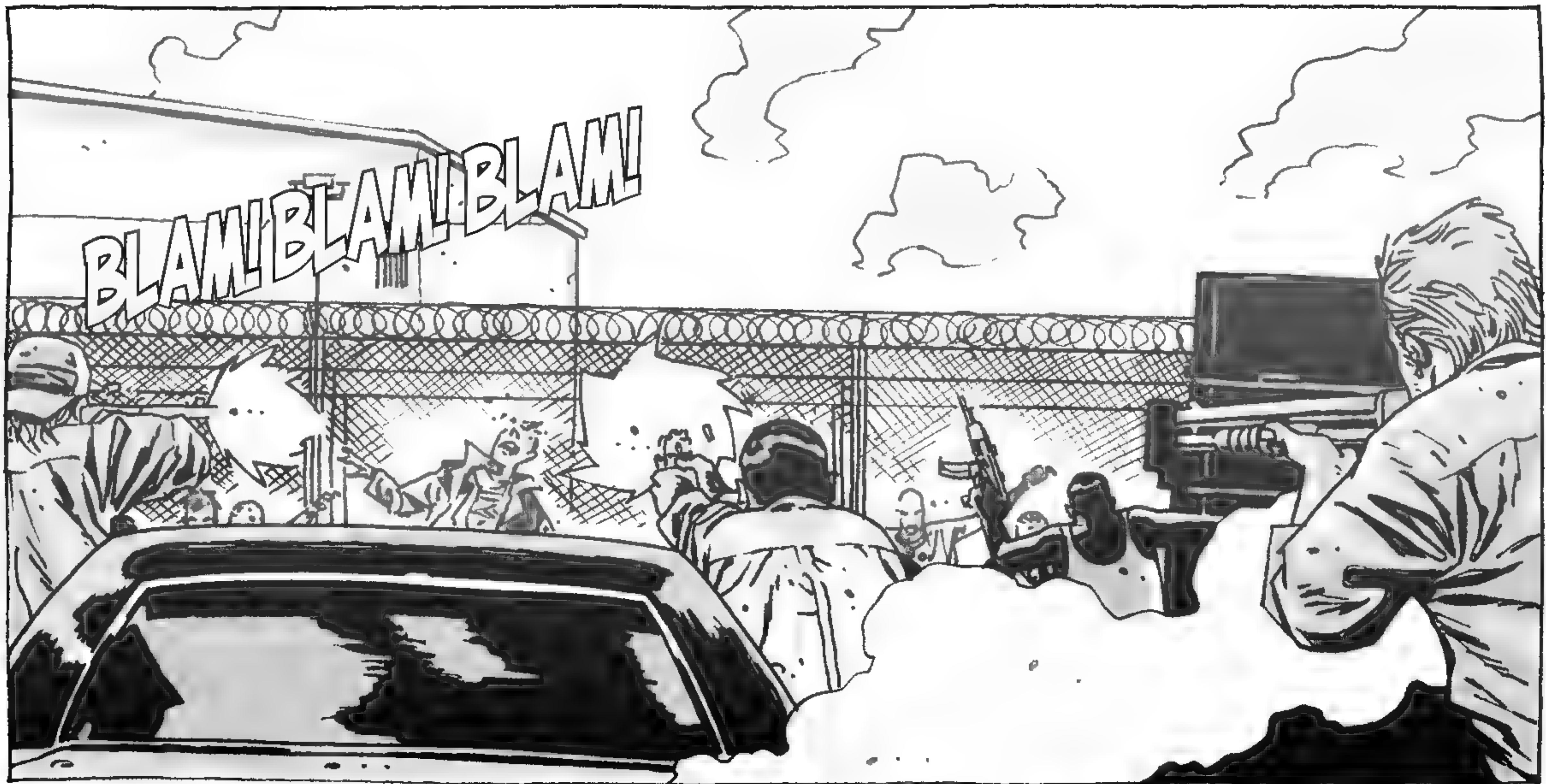
OH, GOD--  
ARE THERE  
MORE OF THEM?  
IT LOOKS LIKE  
THERE'S MORE.

NO. NOT  
POSSIBLE.

JUST KEEP  
IT TOGETHER.  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO.

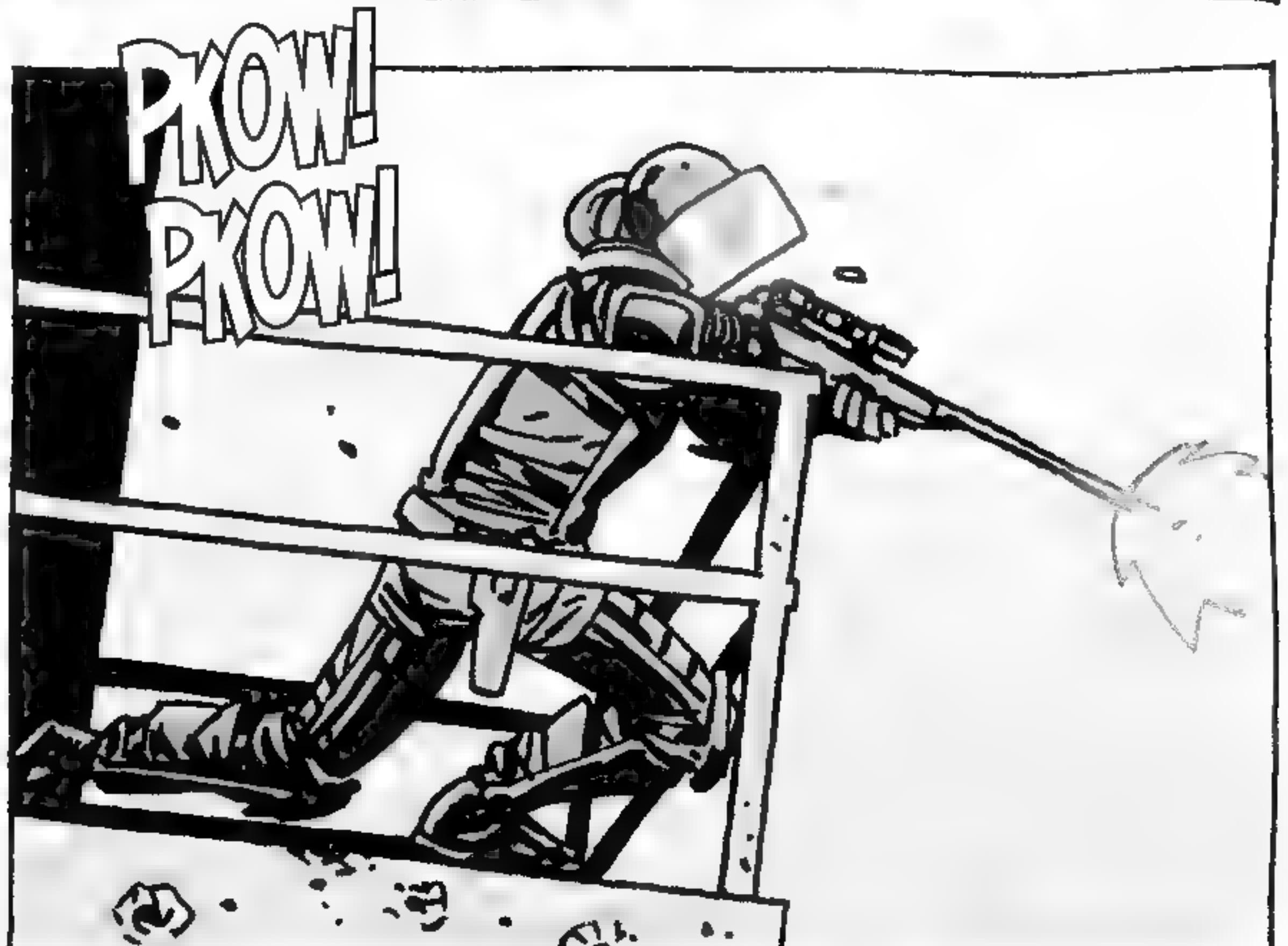
IF WE WORK  
TOGETHER,  
WE CAN GET  
THROUGH THIS.  
WE CAN--









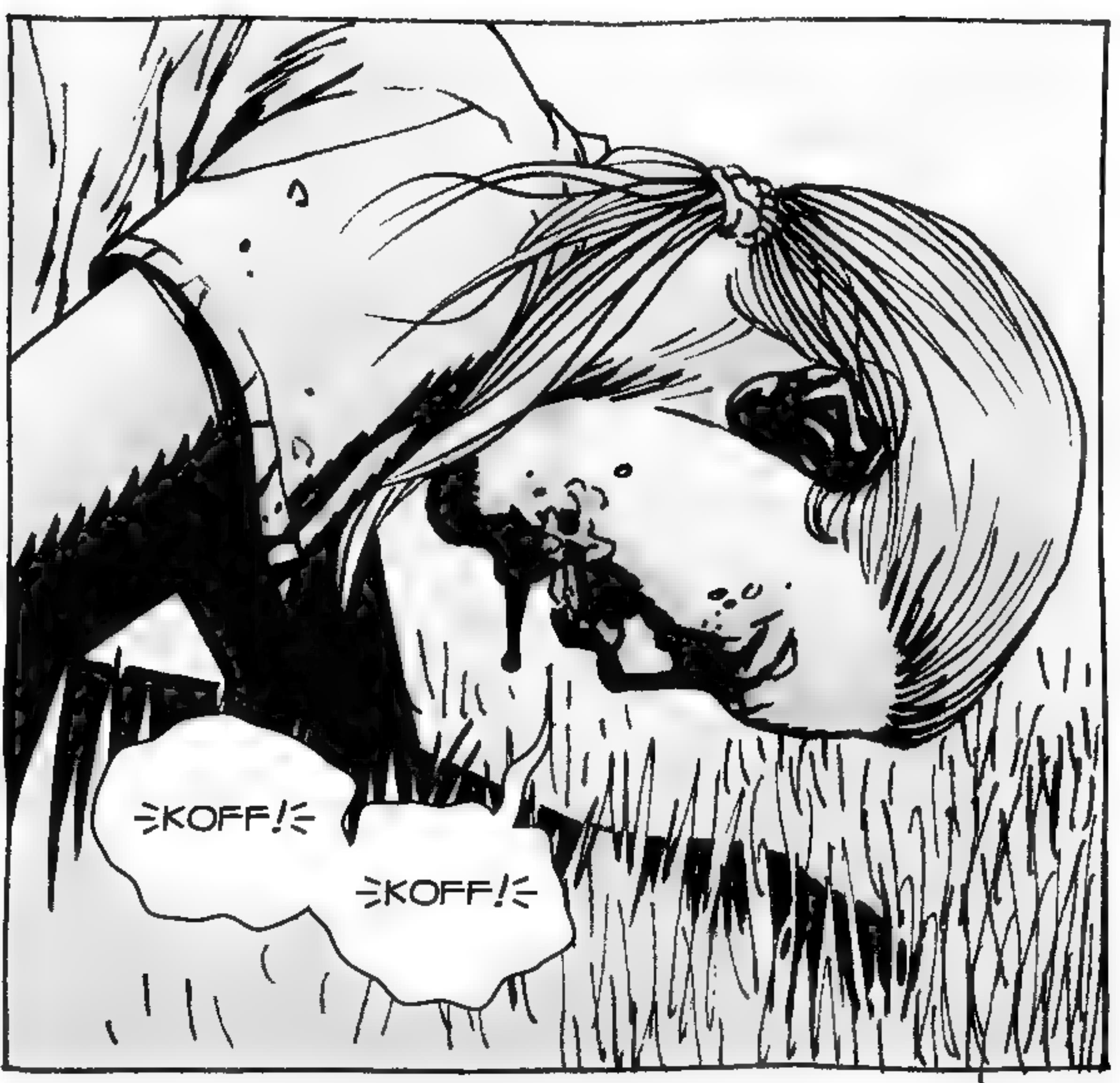


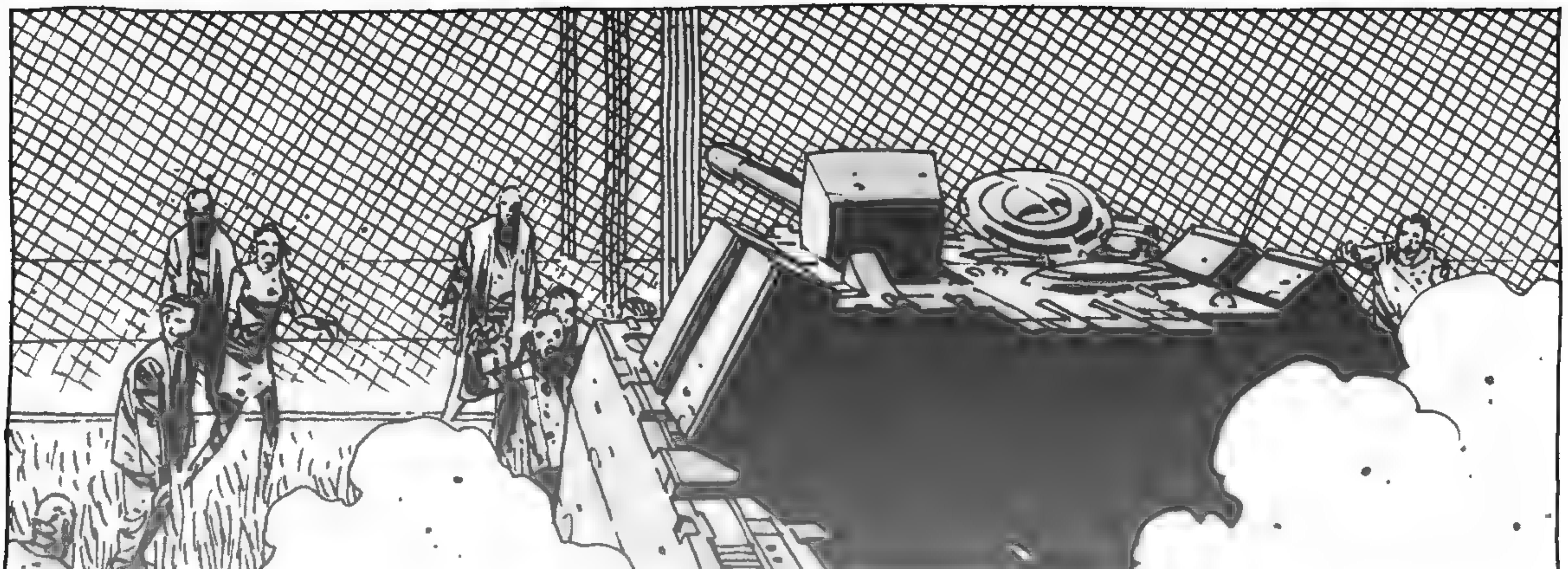




BLAM!  
BLAM!  
BLAM!

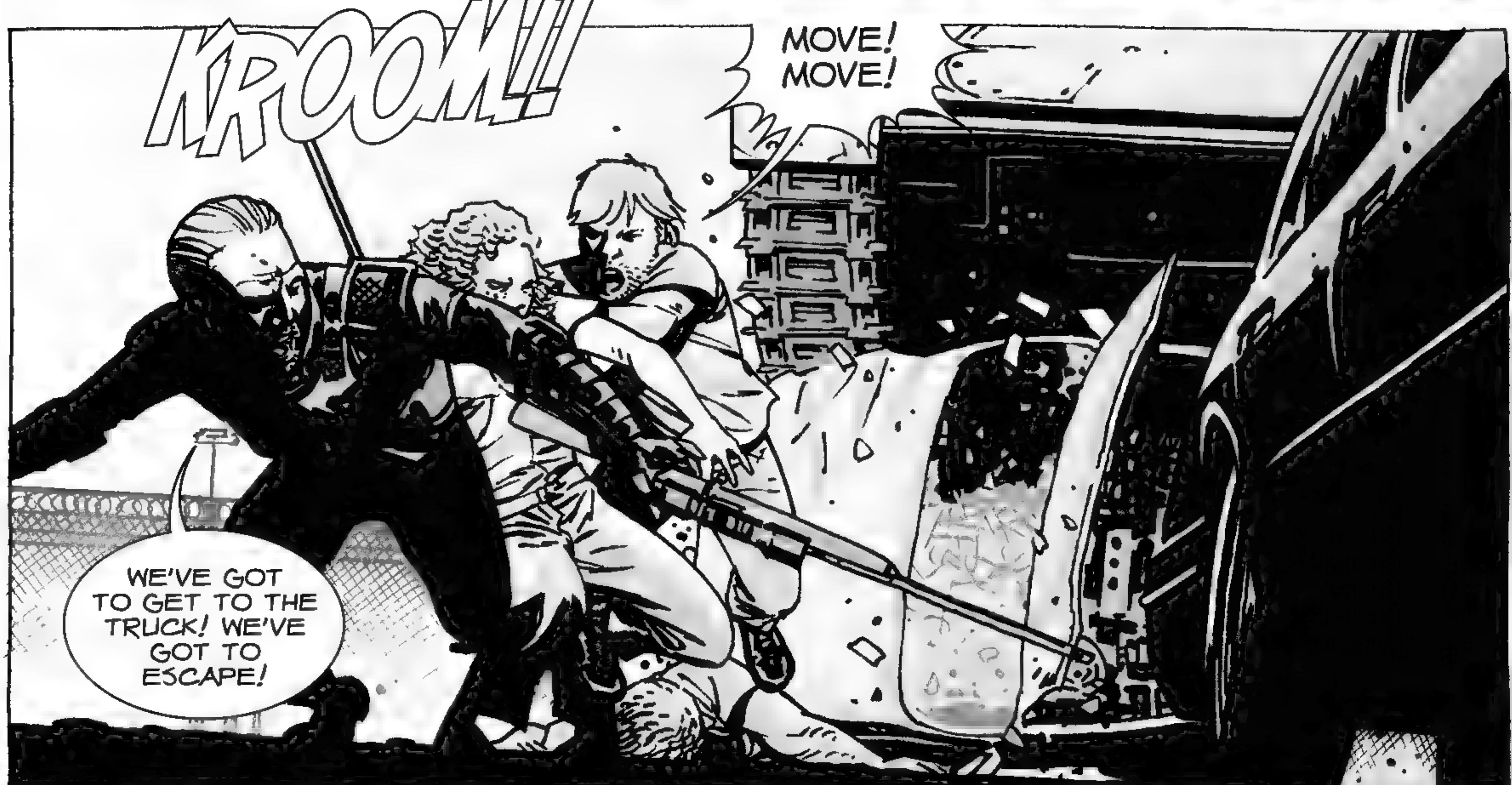


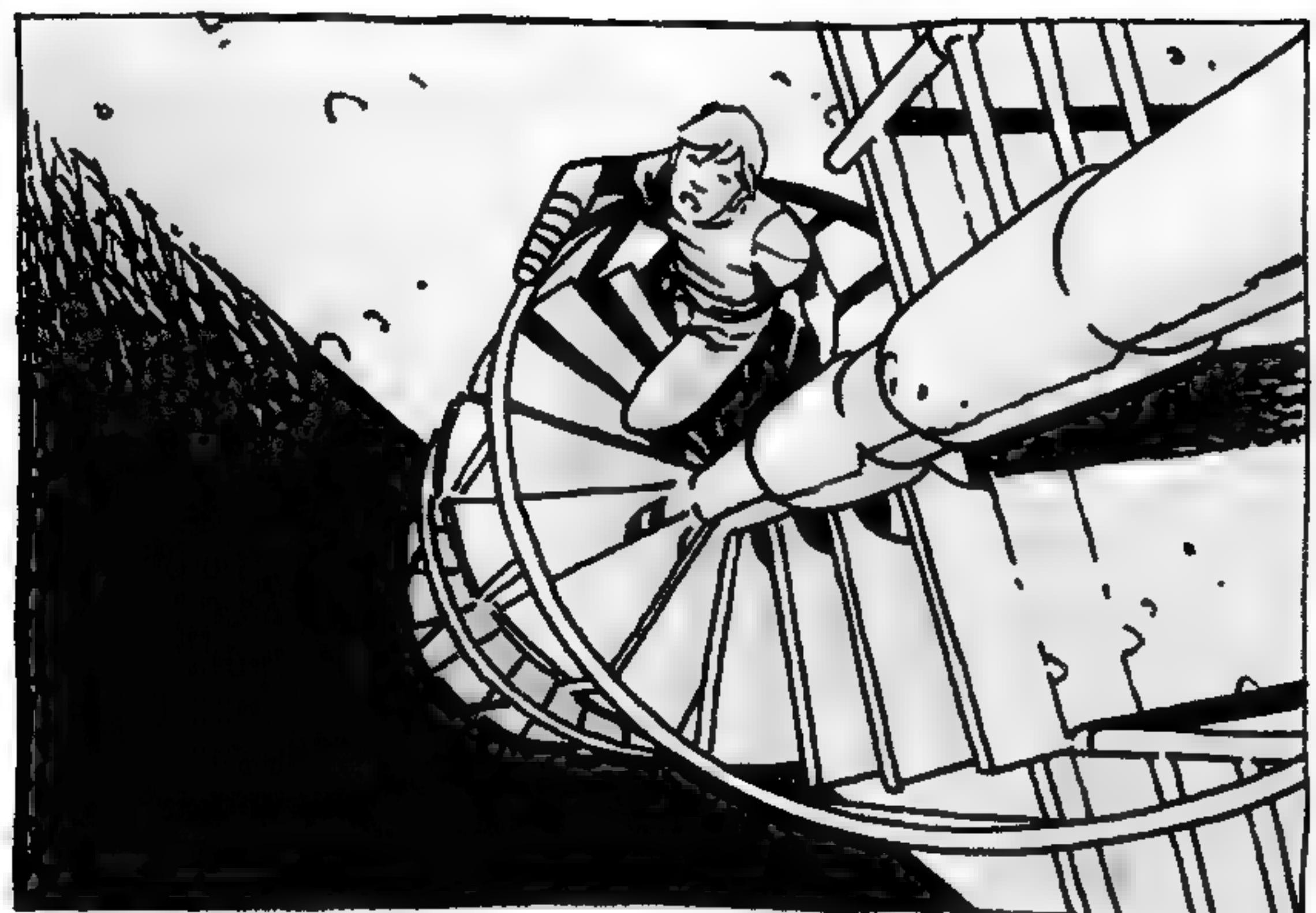






WRACKED







# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

[WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM](mailto:WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM)

Hiya Folks,

**Another pulse-pounding issue, leading to the most insane and unexpected climax from the "No One is Safe" storyline.**

- Sina Grace

Whoa, intense, huh?

**Yeah, I think after this issue you guys can really get a sense of just how much things will be changing after this arc. Big things are in store for this book. These are very exciting times for all of the creative team. I hope you guys are digging it.**

**Not a lot of time for chatting here—so I'll dive right into the mail.**

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I started picking up the TWD trades about six months ago, after coming back to comics early last year. Three weeks ago I caught up, bought issue 43, and added 'Dead' to my reserve box. Wednesday, 44 was waiting for me and it was sweet indeed. I knew there would be some kind of battle...but I never expected the Governor to have to turn tail and run. And man, Andrea just gets more and more bad-ass. In fact, it's a testament to your storytelling prowess that I was so concerned about her...that I completely forgot to worry about Rick.

And now the insinuation is you're going to kill him.

I know you're really good with plot twists, but for the life of me I can't figure out which way you're going to go with this. Either way — if he lives or dies — I have no doubt the story will be typically engaging, emotional, and riveting...

But please don't kill Rick.

Come on.

From the last two letters pages it seems some people have a problem with his sometimes-rigidly-enforced leadership. Personally, I never thought Rick overstepped his bounds. If anything it's when he's begun to believe this himself and allow others to make big decisions that things have usually gone horribly wrong. But even if he sometimes gets a little bitchy...

Don't kill Rick.

I'm not going to stop collecting or anything (at least I doubt it) if you do, but...man...I'll be sad. I mean, the guy just had a kid.

Come on.

All that pining over a fictional character...is directly due to the team on this book. I just want you to know I consider the characters in TWD to be the most realistically drawn (in both senses) and best-written characters in "genre comics" today.

(There might be some romance/emo-notebook/satire thing out there with better characterization, but I don't read that crap.)

**(nor should you.)**

And I have to second Karieth Cashion's comments from the last lettercol. All you Grade A comics scribes are killing us. There's just too much talent out there. What with You, the Powers Guy, the Scary British Somnabulist Fetishist, The Cap-Killer, The Irreverent Irish Shit-Kicker (not to mention the Buffy Guy, the Spies, Sex, & Skullshirt Guy, and the Last-Man-Currently-On-The-Picket-Line) I have very little time to do housework or listen

to charming stories about my friends' children or to complain about politics or reality TV or the religious right...

**I can't figure out who you're talking about.**

Wait...Oh...I guess I should thank you...

So...

Thanks for my favorite comic, (and seriously, don't kill Rick.)

JB Love  
Savannah, Ga

PS

Hey — if these characters last long enough, it would be really cool to see them make their way down here to Savannah. Our historic district would look great crawling with Charlie Adlard zombies...

**I'll see what we can do about getting down to Savannah.**

**Now, regarding your comments on Rick... I can't really comment. The arc is called "no one is safe" so there's that... and what better way to illustrate that absolutely NO ONE is safe. Of course—why would I be so adamantly hinting at something coming up in the book? Wouldn't that just spoil things? Or maybe I'm trying to throw you off... or maybe, just maybe... he'll suffer a fate WORSE than death... Christ—who knows. I will say... the arc ends next issue... so all answers are contained therein.**

Dear Mr Kirkman,  
Thank you for writing the most addicting, and best zombie comic ever. I'm only curious about one thing. I was re-reading the first volume, and I realized that the escaped convict that shot rick putting him in a coma resembles Axel a lot. Is it a coincidence, or will that be brought up later, if axel was the escaped convict? Thanks for being awesome.

-Dylan Goldman

**Pure coincidence... they really don't look THAT much alike. Axel isn't missing any teeth, I believe. It's just like Doctor Stephens, mentioned in issue 2, and Doctor Stevens from Woodbury. The first is named after my family doctor when I was a child... the other is named after none other than Terry Stevens, my friend and artist on a few of my early projects like Battle Pope Presents: Saint Michael.**

Dear Robert & Crew

I'll try and keep this brief as I wrote a long brown nosing letter to Invincible today also. Walking Dead, amazing, awesome, always spectacular yadda yadda. Now onto my question. I've thought (And I'm sure others also) that a The Walking Dead TV series would be possibly the greatest serial drama/thriller ever. What's your opinion on this and do you think it would ever happen?

Thanks, keep up the fudging excellent quality.

ReZourceman  
Michael Jamieson,

**All I can really say is that I'm ALL FOR IT. I can't guarantee it will ever happen, but I'd sure like it to. Who knows? Maybe some day. I often times get emails that say "have you ever considered making it a TV show on HBO?" Well... it's not really up to ME or it would have premiered years ago. So yeah... I'd love for it to happen, but I'd also do my best to make sure it was AWESOME.**

Hey Kirkman,  
I just read twd 44 loved it, bit of an anti climax but I'm sure they'll be back. I loved seeing the gov all pissed off after Andrea took out half his men seeing him punch that fat guy out of anger was funny. I was so worried for Andrea after seeing the cover to 44 the group really need her skills as a marksmen because Glenn can't shoot for shit. Rick is a dead man no one survives being gut shot like that and with their crude medical supplies he's fucked unless the blood is misleading and he's only been grazed. I hope so. Rick deserves a better death than that.

**People have survived similar injuries... I promise. Still, though... it remains to be seen if Rick will.**

It really shows that you've thought of every angle to make it as real as possible. The fact that the gov didn't all of a sudden show up with a swat team but a bunch of rag tag redneck survivors who can't shoot. Has he brought everyone from woodbury to fight?

**Most of them.**

You seem to dig criticism so here goes a couple of the wd trades I've bought mainly Volume 3 and 7 look like they were printed using a very crude photocopier the gray tones are so bad when you compare them to my single issues. Have you seen any like this? Also Invincible volume 8 was the same any comment?

**Frankly, Quebecor, the top printer in the country, who printed these trades, has kind of gone downhill. It's something that really frustrates me, because I've been using them since my self-publishing days. Now, I thought copies that were that bad hadn't made it to circulation. A recent reprinting of Volume 3 got printed TWICE by Quebecor before we had to move it to another printer because they just couldn't seem to print something that didn't look like crap. If you got your hands on a bad book, or two, chances are—they're not all like that. You should be able to return it to your retailer for a good copy. I apologize for the inconvenience. Unfortunately, in most cases, I get five copies to look over, and make sure are well-printed... before the whole run ships out, and so there's always the possibility that I'm seeing the BEST of the run, which is frustrating.**

**Anyway, I believe the problem is fixed now. We'll see.**

Also compared to the Invincible trades The TWD trades are boring! No introductions, no rough sketches or behind the scenes character designs! All stuff us twd fans would love. How's about a pin up section in the twd singles like in Invincible?

**Well, both books are by me, but I decided to try a different approach with TWD, which came out AFTER Invincible. With TWD, I try to make the trades the basic story—that's all you get. With the issues you get letters columns, like this one, and bonus stories like the Christmas tale that ran in issue 32—or wherever, which isn't in a TPB. I just wanted to try something different—and this book sells better! Now, there are next to ZERO sketches done for this series... most characters are designed on the page, there's no costumes to design or space ships or whatever like there is with Invincible, so there's not as much to share—so it makes sense to do this with the TPBs.**

**Now, as far as pin-ups go... I decided before the book shipped that I would never run pin-ups in this series. The reason for this is that it seemed like a very serious book to me, and I figured ALL the pin-ups would be random zombie drawings or even goofy little drawings featuring the characters doing funny stuff... and I felt that would undercut the tone of the series. So I decided not to run any pin-ups... and every pin-up I've ever been offered has been a random zombie drawing or a funny strip or illustration.**

That's all I can find wrong with my favorite comic ever. I just got a special edition of night of living dead with a great documentary called reflections of the dead. Half of the actors in notld were shareholders and collaborators on the film. Did you know George Romero's first company was called Latent Image? Cool, eh?

**I didn't know that—what a weird coincidence.**

More zombie covers please?

**I'll do what I can, I know Charlie likes selling the original art to covers with zombies on it. Wait until you see the cover to 51—it's AWESOME!**

Thanks for listening.  
Scott Spencer  
UK.

P.S. Kirkman for president

**Give it time.**

Hello Mr Kirkman!

I like your comic very much, it has the best character developement and story of any comic I've read.

I've always loathed superhero comics and grew up with mainly underground comics, heavy metal and 2000AD as a kid so your comic fits me like a latex gimp suit!

**That's what I've always set out to achieve. GREAT mental image...**

First and foremost I have to make an ugly confession of a crime for which I have no excuse good enough. I'm stealing your comic through the internet instead of ordering it from America and would probably never have started reading it if I didn't find it on the internet in the first place. Sorry for stealing the food from your baby's mouth! But this makes me think about something, would it perhaps be possible to start buying scans of your comic from your company's site in the future so I could support you without having to pay for overpriced imports? We don't have a local comic book guy either.

**I'm currently exploring options for digital comics. It's something I'm very interested in.**

Now for some questions, some of which you've probably already answered somewhere. Your letter pages are the first comic letter pages I've ever bothered to read, but I've got memory like a goldfish.

1) Do you guys that work with the book ever decide to make some zombies look like people you don't like in real life?

**Not that I'm aware of. Although, Charlie does seem to draw ME as a zombie in almost every issue... so it's a bit unsettling.**

2) What are your top 5 favorite supernatural creatures?

**Um... Zombies, Werewolves, Vampires, God and Spider-Man. Heh.**

3) Do you sometimes yell at your letters when reading a question from a fan that you've seen at least a hundred times before?

**Not often.**

4) Do you like mudkips? I like mudkips.

**No clue what a mudkip is.**

5) Did you play a lot of dungeons and dragons when you were young?

**Nope. I've never played it. Tony Moore and I played a lot of Vampire: The Masquerade.**

As for comments, uh... I don't really have any, not my biz to tell you how to run your comic. However, I think a very unexpected twist would be if Rick and Tyreese became a gay couple, or if your killed off everyone and the story became all about the governor or if Michone's other personality became a zombie and she tried to eat people.

**I've considered the gay couple thing...**

It took me a full sixpack of beer to amount enough courage to write this letter so I'd appreciate it if you decided to print it!

Fakename Obvious  
From Sweden

**I assume that's what we call over here, "Sweden" right?  
Unless that's a new country invented by Wayne Campbell?**

Hey Kirkman,

I'm loving the series, keep up the amazing character development. In issue 44 the letter section said it's time to go from race to "extreme hatred of religion." I figured I'd write in as I'm someone who strives to follow Jesus (the son of God) but also hates religion. I don't mean to offend anyone, my POV is that Jesus hoped to break down the idea of religion, not start a new one. No matter anyone's belief I figured all fans of the Walking Dead series would be interested in what it says in Matthew 27:52-53 (any translation). It's one of the things most Sunday school classes would skip. Every time I read it, my reaction is always the same: WHAT!?! Enjoy.

Tyler Goodison

London, Ontario

P.S. If you print this thanks for the soapbox. If not, at least I got to point out the scripture to you and to let you know there is one more person in the world who enjoys your work

**I don't have a bible... but I do have the internet. Zombies in the Bible. AWESOME.**

---

Dear God of Comics,

**THAT'S how you start a letter. Nice.**

I just finished issue 44.. I must say, I was very happy with it (except Rick getting shot of course). In the back you mentioned that this would be a story arc to bring us through to issue 48. And that there would be a lot of changes. I can see this possibly going one of two ways (or maybe a way that I just don't anticipate, which is always nice). One, you could have Michonne go out with a small group, or by herself, and slaughter the sadistic leader of the group which could lead to everyone staying at the jail after he is gone. OR, you could have the other group win and everyone have to find a new place to live after they get kicked out of the jail, or worse be entertainment for the others.

Also, I am a HUGE zombie fanatic... and TWD is by far my favorite comic. You have taken the zombie genre to a whole new level. Unfortunately I got into TWD in the 30's. I have been scrambling to by the back issues, because let's face it, having the trades is nice but the comics you LOVE you want to own the issues individually. So you know, if you have any of those coveted first printing number ones I have a birthday coming up (wink wink).

**Heh... I do have every issue, but you know... if I gave them to you—I'd have to share with the whole class.**

I also have a question/comment to add before I wrap this up. As you are nearing issue 50, have you thought about a possible end in sight for the book? Or a rough estimate on how many more issues you see in the future? Personally though, I would like to see the book go on for as long as it can.. I don't want it to end any time soon.

I better see this in an issue (hehe j/k),  
Jessica Mikesch

**I guess now is as good a time as any to update people on the status of this book's life. I just got sales figures for 49, and it's another jump in sales, but we haven't been gaining every single issue like we did for the first 40 issues or so. We've kind of hit a level, or are only going up slightly... but that's still amazing. If we started losing readers at a slow rate (which is what 99% of comics do) we could probably still make it until 150 before things started looking ugly. So sales-wise we're good. And we're not dropping in sales yet... and our trade paperback collections continue to outsell the majority of Marvel and DC TPBs. The Walking Dead Volume 6 was number 7 on the top 100 graphic novels of 2007 and Volume 7 was number 10. All the other volumes placed on the list, all pretty high as I recall... so we're doing great. Now, as far as I know, Charlie and Cliff are still having a blast, but I won't speak for them.**

**For me... I can't believe I'm already writing issue 50. That's amazing for me. I feel like I'm writing issue 5, I'm still very jazzed about doing this book, and I see a long, LONG road ahead of me on the series.**

---

Dear Kirkman,

Not much to this issue really. Just...bang, blam, run for your lives! I wouldn't say I didn't enjoy it but, if everything is gonna change soon, then by all means! Wish I had more to say, just, same old same old; and yeah I know my letters haven't been that great recently either.

Sincerely,  
Andrew J. Shaw

**Yeah, your letters kind of blow, I mean... they're a bit stilted, they only take a second to read, and they don't come in with any kind of regularity. I guess I'll keep reading them. I guess.**

---

Dear Irredeemable Kirk-man,

I enjoy your books. They are good. They are well written and the art is pretty. End of praise.

Questions!

1 - If The Walking Dead was a colour, what would that colour smell like?

**What's a "colour?"**

2 - A doctor tells you have three days to live, but they will be the best three days of your life - Do you laugh or cry?

**Cry.**

3 - You are fighting an enraged elephant - how do you win?

**Body slam.**

4 - If, for whatever reason, TWD becomes the next big thing, how far would you sell out? Would we see Zombie Pez Dispensers? Rick's Hand Lunchboxes? Governor Underroos?

**All of the above. And I would also hire some ghost-writer to write the book for me while I retire to my giant money bin to admire my lucky dime. Spats.**

5 - Will we ever see colour in between the TWD covers? I'm think a symbolic splash of red or something like that at a major major turning point.

**Not interested in doing things like that.**

6 - Zombies with guns - when?

**Never. Romero's evolving zombies are his spin. Mine just keep rotting.**

Up with the good work keep,  
Uther Dean

**Writing for thanks.**

---

Kirkman-

First of all thanks for reading my previous letter and responding to it. I was excited that you did. Thank you!

Secondly I didn't mean to be confusing in my letter. My boyfriend, Jon, was a soldier training for his second tour in Iraq and passed away from meningitis. I'm sorry if I was misleading I didn't mean to be casual about his death but he always told me if he didn't come home from Iraq alive that I should be prepared to find a zombie at my door one day. When you are afraid for someone all the time, everyday, the only thing that keeps you going is laughter. I didn't mean to be casual because it's the most awful thing I've ever dealt with and so many things about it piss me off but I didn't write to unload on you. When you wrote about losing your friend I was thinking of how angry I am too sometimes, I'm angry that I'll never laugh with him again or get to wake up in the mornings snuggled but because of him I still laugh everyday so I try to think of that. I don't know that you will miss the snuggling part so much with your friend, but....well maybe?

**Sadly, no. But I guess I can see where you're coming from. I just can't relate to that. I'm sorry if my response seemed insensitive.**

Our humor and love of all things zombie was a big part of us.

Sorry I rambled a lot but while I was excited to see you had responded I was also upset that I was not clear enough in my first letter. I didn't want to fill up your mailbox explaining myself, but I felt like I needed to. Next time I promise to only write in with thought provoking questions and praise for how truly amazing you are.

**Well, that's really NOT what I prefer but thanks. Thought provoking questions, yet... but praise about how truly amazing I am falls on deaf ears. I hear that shit all the time from my entourage and bevy of beautiful women who are always hounding me. I'm kind of numb to it now.**

Anyways, I really only started to write to you the first time because you liked Passions, I got giddy and the ADD part of me kicked in as I was typing... thinking about zombies makes me think about Jon and thinking about Jon makes me think about zombies....

**I understand.**

I hope this letter has made a little more sense, if not oh well I can't help it if I'm a little crazy....

Thanks again for everything you guys do.  
Brandy

**Thanks for writing to explain yourself. I was just a bit confused, so thanks for clearing things up.**

BTW- I am upset that Passions was canceled now I don't know what to watch when I have sick days.

Just avoid the daytime talk shows like the plague—those things are crazy. Most any soap opera these days is confusing in the most intriguing ways. I forget which one it was but there was 40 characters, about 8 plots handled between commercial breaks and there was all kinds of shit going on with a long lost dad, a woman at the docks trying to blackmail a dude, a police officer being double-crossed and I think there were aliens.

I've got to admit... if this comic thing ever dries up for me—I really, REALLY would like to write for a soap opera... so if anyone is reading this...

Dear Mr kirkman,

You sir are a FUCKER! I hate you so much, I love you! I can only imagine how many e-mails you are going to receive about this months issue # 45. I consider myself a pretty tuff guy but this is tearing me up inside, I can't believe a fucking comic is pulling my strings like this! You KILLED my favorite character or the words exactly " so I blew her FUCKING brains out " words can't describe the pain swirling inside my very soul, AHHHHHHHHHH!

I will always continue to spread the gospel on this amazing book and I hope it never stops,

Robert Flesch,

P.S. and since I got your attention I also love your ultimate x-men Great read there also!

**Thanks, glad you like Ultimate X-Men. On the Michonne thing—I can't believe you fell for it! Don't worry—she's okay... for now.**

You have a great horror comic book here, you know that, so I won't rant and rave about it. I just have one question. When is the video game? Just to let you know I interviewed a real zombie named Dead Pete. He claims he went to Haiti, dated some girl and then jilted her. Her father a shaman, injected him with something in a nightclub, made him into a zombie slave, and that he worked on a plantation for 6 months, until he got out of his zombie state. He wanted me to personally interview him, but claims he has lesions all over his body. I said, "no, I rather just interview you over the phone."

Paul Dale Roberts

**Good call... and crazy story. Do you have photos? Weird stuff. Video game? Who knows... maybe never. I'm certainly open to the idea.**

I swear to fucking god, if you have michonne go out on a punk ass boba fett-esque death with a gunshot to the head, I will fucking scream, and never stop screaming until my goddamn lungs explode and then they'll have to send me issues of the Walking Dead to me in the hospital, lest i aggravate my condition horribly by ruining my newly sutured lungs. Seriously, i'm on fucking pins and needles here Kirkman, your book is too good for my health. Stop putting that heroin into the ink, i know you do, cause i'm sick, and it's bad.

-Adam

**She's okay. I promise... no Fett-Death for her.**

Dear Kirk-the-Man,

The dialog seemed very stilted this issue, like every character was rattling off a prepared monologue. That said, it wasn't so bad—there were some major happenings. I've seen in Previews that there's an issue where everyone is Dead And Buried...what then, do they all come back as zombies, too? Maybe I never thought to ask but, is this book black and white for any particular reason? Would you produce it in color if you could? I think the one real drawback to black and white is with the hair color...How Lucille Balle ever became famous as a redhead on a black and white show, I'll never know. By the way, this issue I'd rank last out of the four comics I read today.

Sincerely,  
Andrew J. Shaw

**Well, when we first started out, one of the reasons I made the book black and white was for cost. Not the MAIN reason, or even close to it, but I figured, y'know—if the book is meant to last for a good long time, I could probably make it to issue 25 even if sales were bad if it was black and white. Also, the book has a lot of GORE, in black and white gore is much more acceptable. See Kill Bill. So I figured we might reach a wider audience in black and white.**

Also, Night of the Living Dead was black and white... and as mentioned in the Deluxe Hardcover... this book was originally pitched as a Night of the Living Dead comic, because that title is in the public domain.

Now, I could TOTALLY afford to make this book color, but y'know what... it just wouldn't be the same for me. So sorry... no color... ever. The only time I'd ever do it, is if this book came to an end while still successful, and the TPBs were selling huge, but then died out. I'd wait a few years, and then MAYBE... MAYBE do color collections. But I really don't like the idea of seeing the pages in color.

Like usual I had missed comic Wed. for about three or four weeks in a row and by the time I cleaned out my file I have about 40-something books to sort through. But lucky me since I have Buffy, Invincible and TWD mixed in with various X-Men (yes, Ultimate X-Men as well) titles and Initiative and Countdown crap. I have read through almost everything by now and like usual I always find TWD at the very bottom of the stack. I have finally come to the conclusion that I'm afraid to read this book. Yep, I admit it in plain print. I am a complete pansy when it comes to opening up the cover of this title because thanks to all of your superb characterization I have come to know and love each one of your characters (well, I am kinda glad Carol bit it. She was a complete nutter).

**Yeah, she kinda lost it.**

**As I stare at the cover of issue 44 I am wondering who** is gonna make through these pages alive. I was very relieved with what you did with issue 43 because I wasn't sure if I was ready to deal. I know the story must go on, but I don't know if I'm ready to leave the prison behind. I was starting to like it there. It had become my safe haven. Well, Kirkman....wish me luck here. I'm gonna bite the bullet and get this over with. I would rather be getting a root canal than have to read this damn book.

Khicks  
Dayton, Ohio

**Uh... thanks. I think.**

Mr. Kirkman,

First off, thanks for the series. It is not getting repetitive or dull. Here are my suggestions for Rick's arm:

- 1.) A skeleton key. With this he can open any lock any time, and anywhere.
- 2.) A pacifier. So that when he's making love to Lori and the baby cries, he can plug its mouth while he plugs his wife. (only new parents can appreciate this)
- 3.) A pen. Because the pen is mightier than the sword. Ok that was just dumb. Forget that one.

**Uh... thanks. I think.**

Also, Michonne is not dead, I don't believe that husky prick! But when her and Tyreese surprise them you can clearly see she was aiming right for his pudgy head. How did he not suffer from a severed head? And I swear this guy got fatter in the last few issues (he's like the Hurley of TWD, but bad). This is unprecedented, how does someone gain weight in an apocalyptic world like this? And how the hell did Andrea miss a target like him?

She wasn't aiming for HIM.

And furthermore, why don't the characters refer to these dead stinks as zombies? I think it's obvious that 1.) they eat people and 2.) they are dead and rotting corpses that walk. Seems pretty frickin' obvious to me that anybody harboring these two basic characteristics would be a zombie. I mean, if evil creatures appeared only at night and drank only blood showed up in this world to wreak havoc, I don't think it would take me two seconds to figure out they were vampires. I wouldn't call them 'neck biters' or something retarded like that.

Just a thought. I hope this letter stands out enough to be published.

Thanks,  
Manny Lerma

**Well, the term has appeared in the book before... but for the most part, I think using that term all the time seems weird. Because that term comes exclusively from the movies. I mean, the term existed—but not in the way that Romero zombies are. And nobody in this comic is talking about seeing Day of the Dead or Shaun of the Dead or whatever. So I try to use the term sparingly. I think people would make nicknames for them like biters or roamers... that's just**

## what people do.

Michonne dead...obviously the Governor hasn't heard of the Chewbacca gambit. Also, that henchman is really fat. I'm sure some of it's hereditary, but statistically speaking, that dude's gonna get got by diabetes or heart disease for a zombie does him in. Someone should really say something to him.

**He's trying man... it's not as easy to lose weight as most people think. He tries to hit the gym—but it always seems like something is getting in the way and he doesn't have time. And he'll go like an entire damn week eating good and then cave in and order a pizza on Saturday or eat a delicious burger from Hardee's when friends come over. It's an ongoing struggle, but it's hard enough just to keep from gaining weight most weeks and he's... er... he's... nevermind.**

Happy Holidays,  
Jeff Janczyk

PS-Big Ups to Brian Keene! Just finished Dead Sea, and it was a pretty good read. It had a zombie whale. Spooky.

**Fuck—a zombie WHALE?! I need to read that damn book!**

Hi Robert,

Thanks for printing my letter in issue 45. You don't know how much pussy that's gonna get me?

**None.**

That's a lie.

**No kidding.**

But it was a great issue, and it totally solidified the suspicion that Walking Dead is the reason I read comics. The major thrill of the medium, for me at least, is less about superheroes or cool art or whatever, and more about the excitement of serialized storytelling. Unless you count soap operas, where else but comics can you be part of a story that could literally go on forever? And the serialized thrills of the Walking Dead are so much better than other comics because there's real change here every month. People die. People leave. People are left with 50% fewer hands. That kind of upheaval just doesn't happen to iconic characters in corporate titles. It's not like DC would up and decide to give Bruce Wayne a wooden leg.

**Pirate Batman!**

I guess that's why I buy the monthly issues as opposed to the trades, and I guess that's why it's the first comic I read from the stack. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Now kill off that prison doctor and see what kind of hell breaks loose the next time someone needs urgent medical care. The thought of Axel having to perform crude surgery with instructions he read out of a "For Dummies" book makes me salivate.

Keep up the good work,  
Kid Kaos

**Axel isn't going to be doing much of anything after THIS issue. And sorry about that, by the way... he was a favorite of mine too.**

Man,

I just got caught up on Issue #45 and all I can say is what will you throw at us next? Anyone else about the join the ranks of the undead? How long do you think this series will run? I apologize in advance if you've already addressed this in a previous message but I am a relatively new fan. I started in October and just began devouring (no pun intended) TWD.

George

**Issue 50 is the last issue. (kidding)**

Kirkland Rathton,  
I'm dead. Officially. Your book just killed me.

Man, Michonne????!! WHY MICHONNE????!! I want to keep thinking that I can't trust that dude Gabe at all when he says he shot her, but STILL!

**Sucker!**

And Tyreese in the clutches of the vile Governor! When will this all end?

## Issue 50. (kidding again)

Commence numbered questions.

1) Can't remember if you've seen this but if not you should totally rent (or BUY) the "UNDEAD" DVD. It'll help when the aliens arrive in Issue #75 (only 30 more to go!!!). I saw the movie back in 2003 with my zombie crew and I loved it. Three words. Zom. Bie. Fish.

**Yeah, Undead is a special kind of awesome. Great, GREAT goddamn movie!**

2) I've read your IGN interviews of late and there was a lot of talk about Invincible in the Image Universe and how he interacts with other characters like Savage Dragon, etc. Where does TWD fall in terms of universes?

**It is its own place. Assume it's the real world—and zombies broke out. It is completely unconnected to the Invincible Universe—where Brit, The Astounding Wolf-Man, Capes, Tech Jacket and Invincible all take place.**

3) OH SNAP! Kirkmania.com is up and running! Can't wait for the rest of the site to get worked out. And as a side-note, I love the mini-Kirkman drawing. I vaguely remember Ottley doing several characters in that caricature style but can't remember where. Don't you wish you had a plush mini-Kirkman doll at home?

**I've considered making plush dolls, because to me, it seems SO narcissistic that it's FUNNY... but I think it would make most people think I'm a total ASSHOLE, but I thought about it so seriously that I almost had a prototype made. And those caricatures of me are drawn by young Nate Bellegarde, who is drawing Invincible Presents: Atom Eve... and BRIT starting with issue 7.**

4) It's the holidays and I can imagine that after a Zombie Apocalypse they take on an extra-special significance. You know... Egg nog. Brains. Loved Ones. Brains. Presents. Chestnuts and Brains roasting on an open fire. But it makes me miss Morgan and Duane all the more...seeing as we last saw them in the Image 2005 Christmas Special. Please. Throw us a bone here. Morgan and Duane still around? Duane's batteries had to have run out by now, right? And if not, he's gotta be TOTALLY done with those games. Please give us some clue. Please, Kirkman, it's the holidays. Do it for the children.

**Duane's probably not playing a whole lot of Gamboy these days. We will see them again... some day.**

Well, again, you da man. Happy Holidays. Can't wait for Walking Dead AND Invincible #50!!! Crazy, huh?

**Very crazy.**

I'm going to bed. With visions of TWD Hardcover Vol. 3 in my head.

Good night,  
Dan "Kentucky" Benningfield

PS The letters you printed of mine in Wolf-Man and Invincible have made me the coolest Kirkman fanboy in all of Comicazi-land. The guys at the store loved it. Thanks for bringing joy to this nerd's heart. Now maybe if you'd print this, the circle would be complete, as they say.

**Circle complete.**

**Okay kids, that's all we have time for this month. I'll see you all back here very soon.**

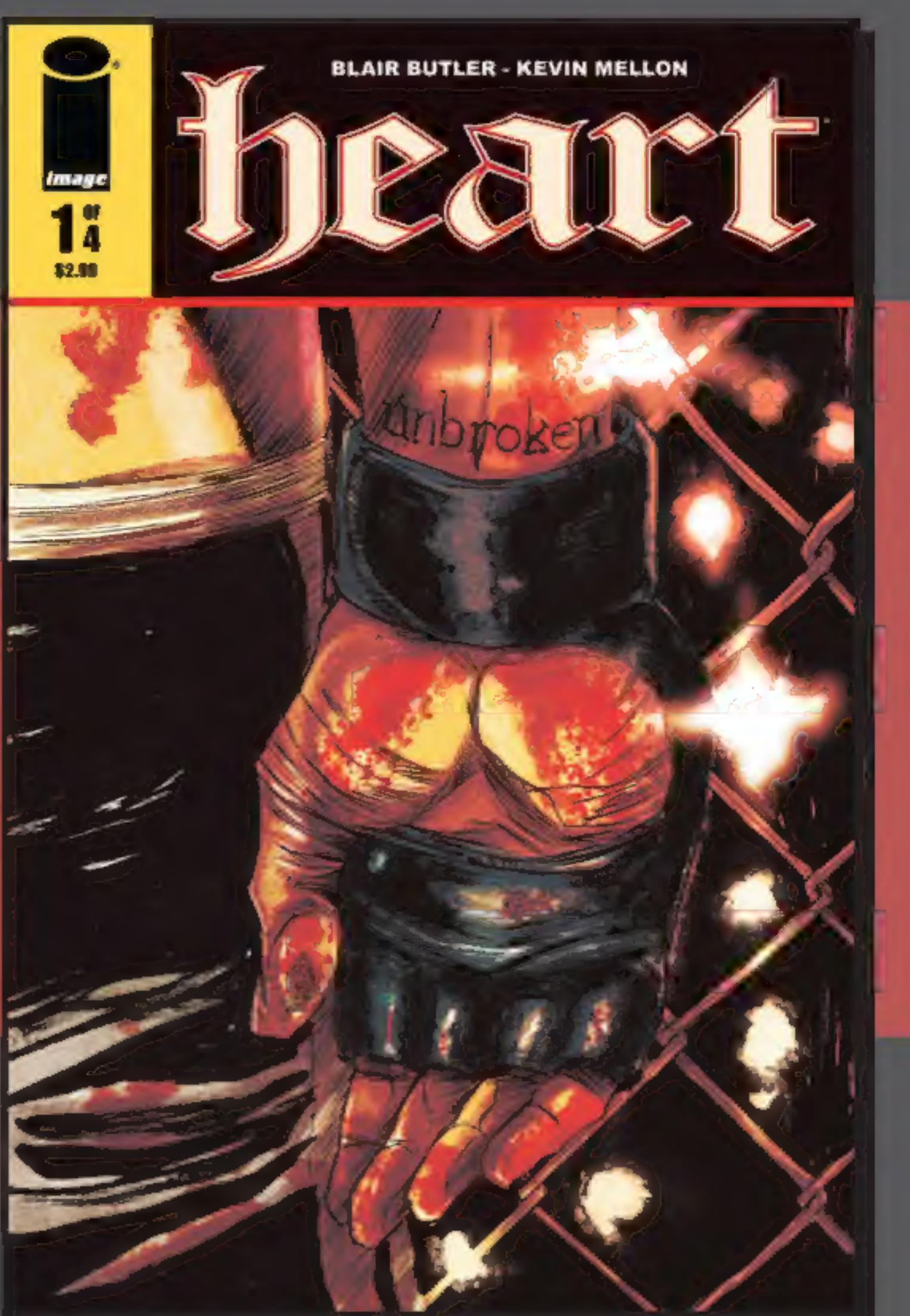
**Until then!**

**-Robert Kirkman**

# NOVEMBER 2011

## HEART #1

Mixed Martial Arts and comics collide when an office drone named Oren "Rooster" Redmond follows his older brother into the fiercely competitive world of professional MMA. With nothing left to lose, Oren hopes to find his purpose in fighting – but does passion equal proficiency? Does Oren truly have the heart of a champion? Find out in the first chapter of this four-issue series.



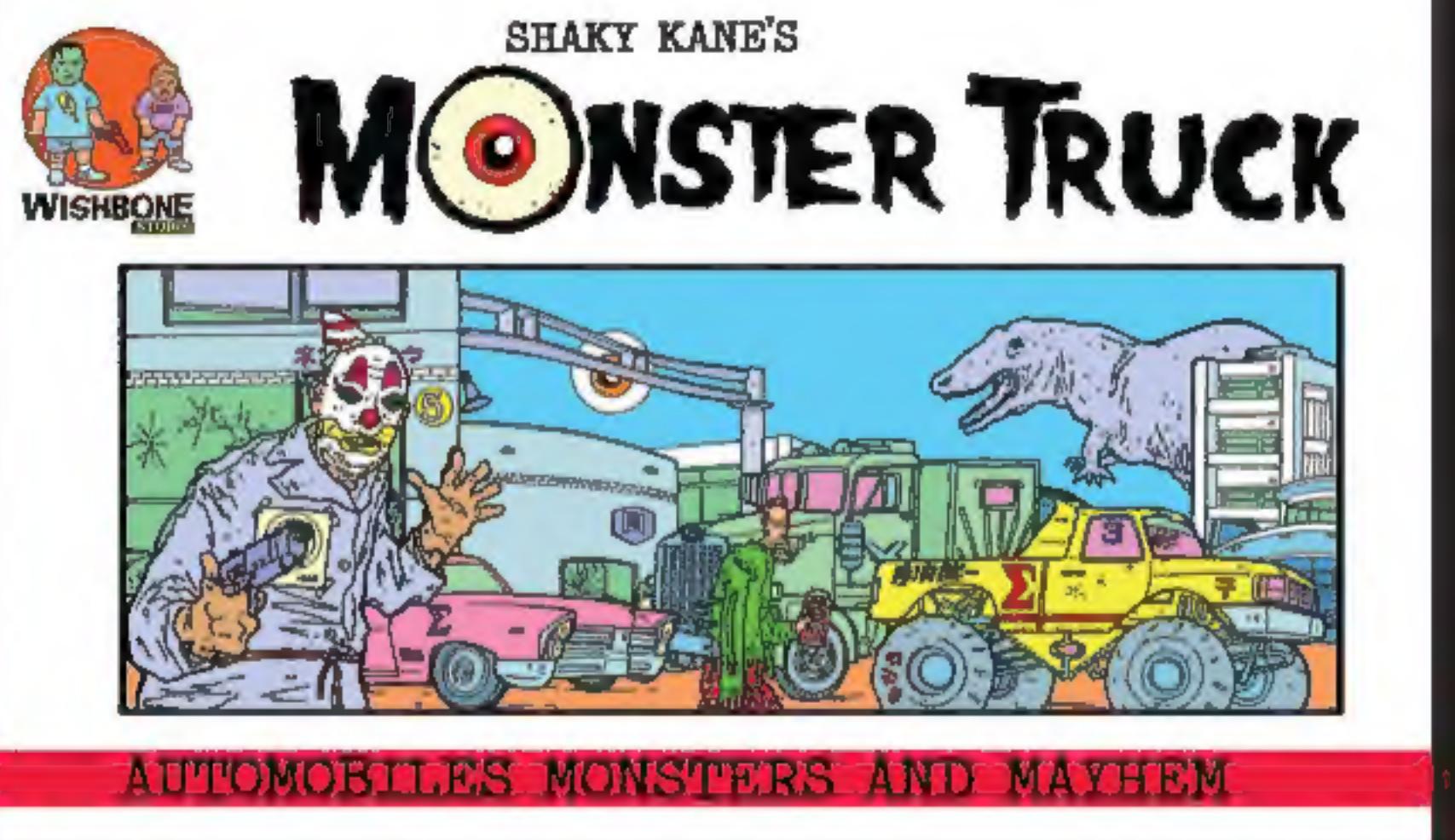
## MUDMAN #1

A BRAND-NEW SUPERHERO COMIC BY PAUL GRIST! It's the first day back at school for Owen Craig, and it's not going too well. He's been run over, got detention, and his police officer father has been taken prisoner by armed bank robbers. And now his body seems to be turning into mud...



## OUR LOVE IS REAL

THE FUTURE IS HERE! Plantsexuals riot in the streets for equal rights. Humans fall in love with dogs. And crystals are more than just jewelry. A chance encounter on the job changes a riot cop's life forever as he finds himself caught in a bizarre love triangle that blurs romance, crime, and lust beyond recognition.



## SHAKY KANE'S MONSTER TRUCK

GET YOUR MOTOR ROLLING AND HEAD OUT ALONG COMIC BOOK ROUTE 666! Taking its stylistic cues from the silver age of comics, this graphic road movie by comics legend SHAKY KANE pans out over 50 continuous panels, taking the reader on a hallucinogenic journey into the very hinterland of popular culture. Deluxe, recolored, remastered second printing of the WISHBONE STUDIO cult classic.

## CHECKLIST

For the latest Image Comics

27 SECOND SET #3 (of 4)



ARTIFACTS #11 (of 13)



AVENGELYNE #5



BLUE ESTATE #7



CARBON GREY ORIGINS #1 (of 2)



CHEW #22



DARKNESS #95



ELEPHANTMEN #36



GLADSTONES SCHOOL FOR WORLD CONQUERORS #7



GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES #3



GREEN WAKE #7



HACK SLASH #10



THE INFINITE #4



INVINCIBLE #84



LAST OF THE GREATS #2



LI'L DEPRESSED BOY #8



MORIARTY #6



MORNING GLORIES #14



NEAR DEATH #3



PIGS #3



REED GUNTHER TP VOL 1



SAVAGE DRAGON #175



SEVERED #4 (of 7)



SKULLKICKERS TP VOL 2  
FIVE FUNERALS & A BUCKET OF BLOOD



SPAWN #213



THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE #2 (of 6)



SUPER DINOSAUR TP VOL 1



THE WALKING DEAD #91



WITCHBLADE #149



XENOHOLICS #2



# The Third Degree: BLAIR BUTLER

IMAGE COMICS' MONTHLY Q&A SESSION

Blair Butler is a writer, producer, and on-air comic book correspondent for G4's *Attack of the Show*. Her first comic book, *Heart*, (with art by the fantastic Kevin Mellon) tells the story of a young cage fighter who is quite good at punching dudes in the face until they go to sleep. The first issue hits store shelves Nov. 2nd. She has also appeared on Comedy Central, E!, MTV, and wrote and directed a ridiculous zombie pilot for VH1, as well as G4's animated "Slasher School" series of animated shorts. You can see her weekly comic book reviews at [www.G4tv.com/FreshLink](http://www.G4tv.com/FreshLink).

## What are you working on right now?

Wrapping up *Heart* issue #4 and writing/producing/corresponding for G4's *Attack of the Show*. So it's a good mix of scripting tragic, comic book punching -- and scripting "critical commentary" for videos of guys getting tragically punched in the nuts for a TV show. I'm also about to leave for New York Comic Con. I've been to NYCC every year since it launched, but this is the first year I'll be there with a book of my own. So that's a pretty good/slightly scary feeling. Plus, I'll get to see *Heart* artist Kevin Mellon there. It's like we had a crazy, comic book baby together -- but we've only met in person once.

## What's the best part of your job?

Getting to talk comics and MMA on a daily basis. Getting to meet great comic book creators -- and great fighters. I'm also blessed to work with some really amazing people behind the scenes at AOTS. Oh, and sometimes we have wild animals on the set. Like a surfing llama. That was a pretty good day.

## What's the worst part of your job?

*Attack of the Show* is live 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year; so there's zero down time. Have you ever seen a hamster running in one of those little plastic wheels? It's like that, but the hamster never gets off the damn wheel. Although instead of a water bottle, the hamster gets a coffee drip. So that helps. I also get to work with a few other incredibly talented writers on *Attack*, including comic book scribe Gerry Duggan (*Infinite Horizon*, *Last Christmas*).

## How did you first discover comics?

My dad took me to Clint's Comics in Kansas City and let me buy whatever I wanted from the quarter bin. I grew up on old, discounted, dog-eared issues of She-Hulk, EC Horror Comics, and Werewolf by Night. Then, somehow I persuaded my dad to buy me "Batman: The Cult" at age, I dunno, 8 or 9. I'm sure he thought, "Hey, it's Batman, this is fine for a kid" -- but at the time was one of the most violent mainstream comics ever released. And, of course, I loved it. Bernie Wrightson drawing an axe murder! In a Batman book! It was insane! So then I hunted down (Wrightson's) stuff on Cycle of the Werewolf, and all those Marvel Graphic Novels he did -- which eventually lead to the New Mutants MGN... Basically, the New Mutants were my gateway drug. After the Batman axe murder.

## What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

"You're not as fat as you are on TV."

## Who is the biggest influence on your work?

This one is easy. Most influenced by Jason Aaron, Brian Wood, and Ed Brubaker. Most inspired by Gail Simone, Greg Rucka, and Jonathan Hickman.

## What is the single work of which you're most proud?

Honestly, *Heart*. It's a story I've been dying to tell -- that just happens to be full of fellas beatin' each other up. And the old "Slasher School" animated shorts we did at G4. Naked Werewolf. Need I say more?

## Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

*Project Runway* and *Work of Art* on Bravo. So much drama. So much pretension. Also *Spartacus* on Starz. OH MY GOODNESS THE GRATUITOUS EVERYTHING!

## What was the last comic book you bought?

Oh jeez. I mean, I buy boatloads. It'd be too hard to list them all. I buy about 40 bucks of new comics and trades each week. It's like having a crack habit.

## Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Shelley Duvall.

## Pick three things you couldn't live without.

I could live without a lot of stuff. But life wouldn't be much fun without cupcakes, videogames (*Gears*, *Fallout*, *Uncharted*, *C.O.D.*, etc.), and good brunch places. I'm a power-bruncher. Sunday morning is my Friday night.

## What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

A huge, Sideshow Collectibles, X-3 Beast maquette statue. Dude looks like a naked, blue werewolf. Also, I'll soon have the last page of *Heart* issue #1 framed and hanging on my wall -- if you've seen it, you'd know why it's a a...uh... "conversation piece."

## What music are you listening to these days?

An odd mix. Some really good stuff for *Heart* though -- if you read the book, the fighters' entrance music is big part of it. So songs like *Hometown Hero* by Big K.R.I.T. with Yelawolf, *Beautiful Lasers* by Lupe Fiasco, and *Reach for the Sky* by Social Distortion.

## What is your favorite film of all time?

Toss up between *Blade Runner* (Director's cut) and *Annie Hall*.

## When was the last time you were truly frightened?

When I went skydiving. My hand was shaking so badly when I signed the release form -- the one where you basically say, "I'm not gonna sue if I pancake to the earth and die," -- that I could barely write my name. But I did it. And it was amazing-\* (\*-ly scary).

## What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

Totally selfish answer: I'd like to put more comics out into the world. I love this.

## What the world needs now is...

To calm down. Everybody calm down.

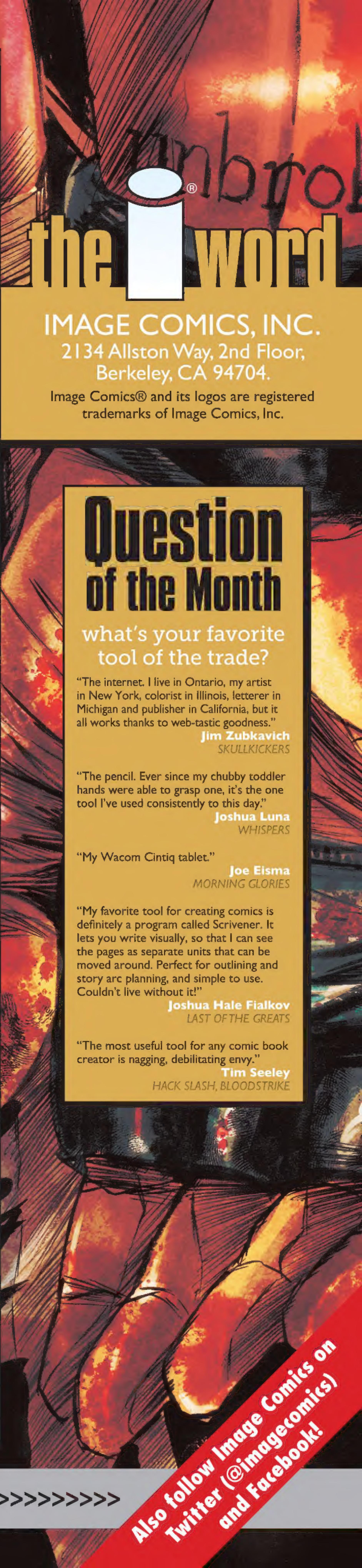


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## Question of the Month

what's your favorite tool of the trade?

"The internet. I live in Ontario, my artist in New York, colorist in Illinois, letterer in Michigan and publisher in California, but it all works thanks to web-tastic goodness."

Jim Zubkavich  
SKULLKICKERS

"The pencil. Ever since my chubby toddler hands were able to grasp one, it's the one tool I've used consistently to this day."

Joshua Luna  
WHISPERS

"My Wacom Cintiq tablet."

Joe Eisma  
MORNING GLORIES

"My favorite tool for creating comics is definitely a program called Scrivener. It lets you write visually, so that I can see the pages as separate units that can be moved around. Perfect for outlining and story arc planning, and simple to use. Couldn't live without it!"

Joshua Hale Fialkov  
LAST OF THE GREATS

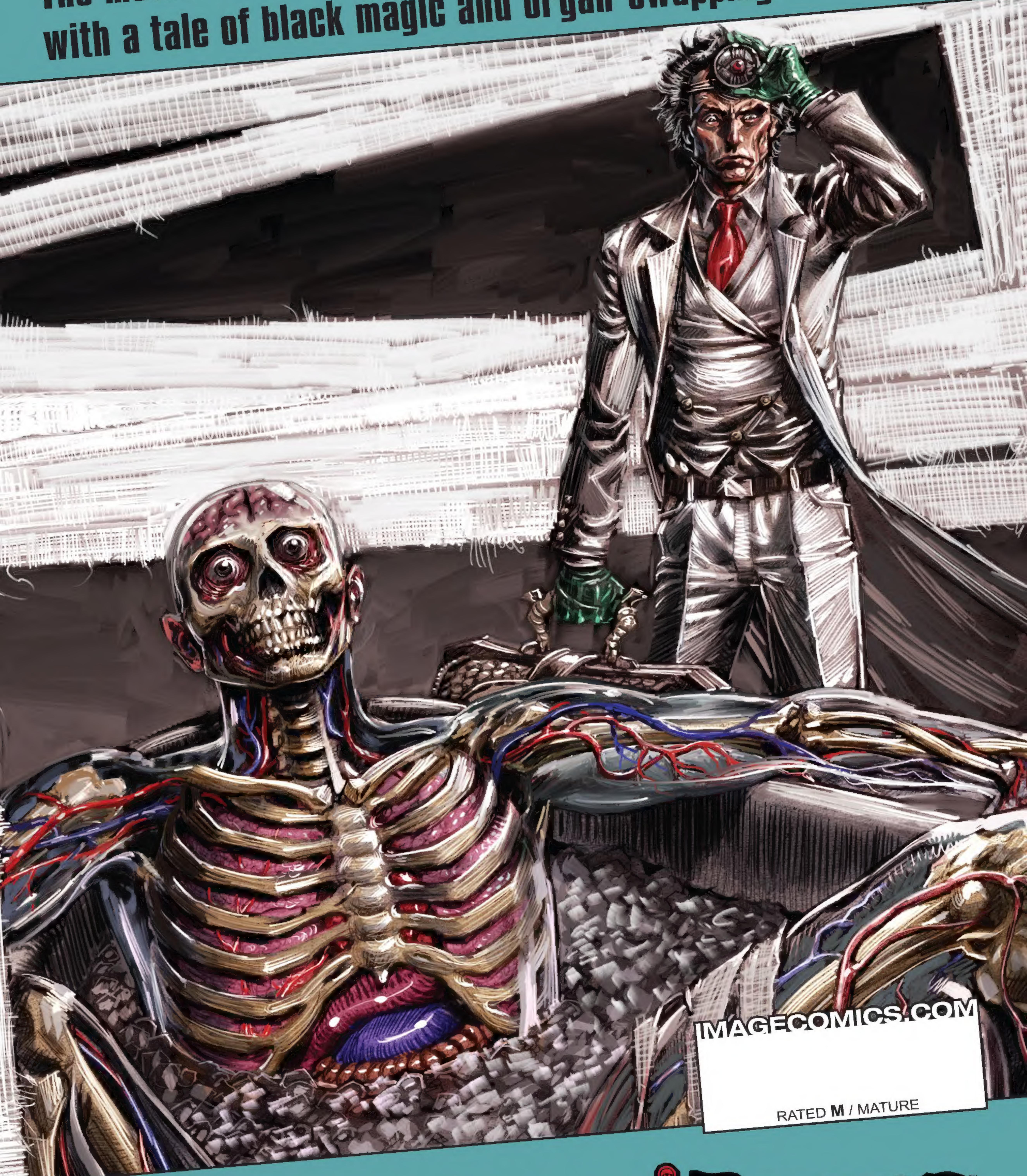
"The most useful tool for any comic book creator is nagging, debilitating envy."

Tim Seeley  
HACK SLASH, BLOODSTRIKE

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